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[BEGIN AUDIO]

[TECHNICAL]

INTERVIEWER: The following oral history interview was conducted at the Hilton Hotel in Guam on July 20, 1994 at 3:00 p.m. Its purpose was to record the oral history of Mrs. Carmen Kasperbauer who was a young civilian girl in Guam during World War II. This interview is being made the National Park Service War of the Pacific National Historical Park in conjunction with KGTF Channel 12 in Guam. Mrs. Kasperbauer, I understand the National Park Services has your permission to make this recording and to retain all literary and property rights deriving from it. Is that correct?

CARMEN KASPERBAUER: I guess so, yes.

INTERVIEWER: Reluctant, yes. She's always worried what we're going to do. All right. For the record, Carmen, if I could be informal like that, could you state your full and complete name and also could you give us both names, your maiden name and now your married name?

CARMEN: Okay, my name was Carmen Torres Artero.

INTERVIEWER: And how do you spell that last name.

CARMEN: A-R-T-E-R-O.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

CARMEN: And now my name is Carmen Artero Kasperbauer.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, and how do you spell that last name?

CARMEN: K-A-S-P-E-R-B-A-U-E-R.

INTERVIEWER: And where were you born and what was the year?

CARMEN: I was born in Aganya, Guam, August 8, 1935 to Josefa Perez Torres Artero and Antonia Cruz Artero.

INTERVIEWER: And how many children were there in the family?

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CARMEN: I am the second oldest of 12 children

INTERVIEWER: Can you for the record remember all of their names?

CARMEN: Yes, my older sister is Maria and then like I said I came second and Rosita, Josephine, Antonio, Jose or Joseph, Virginia. Let's see, after this Franklin, then Eleanor, Margaret, Pasqual and Victor.

INTERVIEWER: Wow, that's quite a family.

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Is that a typical Catholic family here in Guam, a large family?

CARMEN: Yes, it's between 9 and 15 or whatever in those days.

INTERVIEWER: Where would you consider the place that you grew up in here in Guam? What area or township?

CARMEN: Like I said, I was born in Aganya so we were living in Aganya and ...

INTERVIEWER: Did you go to school there?

CARMEN: No, in those days I think children had to be seven years old to go to school, and the war started when I was 6-1/2 years old. So I didn't really go to school. I used to tag along with my sister Maria because my mom's sister was teacher. In fact, I was in a play in school for my auntie's class and I was a clown. And when the war broke out on December 8th that Monday, my sister and I were dressed like angels in the cathedral. The mass had already started.

INTERVIEWER: This was a special religious holiday?

CARMEN: Yes, it's the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and it's the Patron Saint of the island, and one being predominantly Catholic it's the Feast Day yesterday for everyone.

INTERVIEWER: So that day was a special day for Guamanian people or Chamorro people and the war starts?

CARMEN: Yes. We were in the church when the planes were coming and heard the droning of the plane. I thought it was PAN-AM Clipper and I got excited because not

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only children but even adult when we hear the PAN-AM Clipper everybody would drop everything and run out to look at it and start waving their scarf or bandana or whatever. And so I nudging my sister and said, PAN-Am, Pan-Am." And it sounded like a whole lot of Pan-Ams were coming. So I could hardly wait to get out to go see. And my sister was nudging me back to keep still. But I said, "There are a lot of Pan-Ams. I want to go see. Can we go see a lot of Pan-Ams?" And then I think it was almost communion time or whatever, and then the grown up started murmuring and the Bishop stopped. And some of them started to listen and then later on he made an announcement to the people. Of course, we little ones didn't understand because it was Spanish, and his Chamorro was difficult to understand. But later on, we understood him to have said that if the planes would leave that everyone ... We're not going to continue with mass, and we're just going to go and everybody go home. So when they left, when the planes left, we saw all the grown ups panicking running out of the church.

INTERVIEWER: Was bombing going on while you were in the church?

CARMEN: Yeah, somewhere nearby. I think they bombed where the chimney stack wasn't again and over by Suma [PH] ...

INTERVIEWER: So you heard this rumbling going and obviously the adults knew it was bombing, not the Pan-Am Clipper.

CARMEN: Yeah, and there were a lot of planes. I guess they knew it was not Pan-Am.

INTERVIEWER: So when you got out of the church, what did you see?

CARMEN: Women holding their high heels and looking ridiculous, running all over like crazy and my sister and I got scared because my dad came to church with us, but we couldn't find him, and we didn't know which way was home. So we were lost and then my auntie found us and grabbed our hands, and she was holding her high heels and running. Then when another plane came in, coming swooping down, she

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grabbed us both and shoved us under somebody's house and I ended landing on top of a turtle that's nesting in there. After that, she took us home. When we got home, there was my dad and my mom already in the car.

INTERVIEWER: The home was somewhere here in Aganya?

CARMEN: Yes, in Aganya. And the little ones ... My mom just gave birth in October to my sister and our brother Joseph, who was not even a year old when my mother gave birth to Virginia, was being taken care of by my grandmother. So we were separated at that time, and my dad was say, "Hop in, hop in," you know for us to hop in and I didn't want to hop in because I wanted to go upstairs. We had a two-story house and the first floor was used as a restaurant. It's called the Blue Front and our house was upstairs, and I wanted to run upstairs to get my clown suit because that was my precious belonging that I want to take my clown suit, you know. My dad said, "Come here, we need to go," and people were swarming over to our car.

INTERVIEWER: Where were you going to go?

CARMEN: My dad was just ...

INTERVIEWER: Flee the town, just get away from the bombing?

CARMEN: And so finally, I got my clown suit. As I slipped away from all the grown ups and I went up and got my clown suit and then my dad grabbed me from the stairs and got in the car. The car was not really like a regular car.

INTERVIEWER: How is that?

CARMEN: It was like a [INDISCERNIBLE] or something like that. So we started heading out of Aganya, and people were on top of the car, on the side of the car, on the hood of the car.

INTERVIEWER: People were just panicking then?

CARMEN: Yes, and crying, "Antonio, Antonio, please, give us a ride." So we took as many as we could.

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INTERVIEWER: Did you witness anybody being killed during the bombing or did you see any of that?

CARMEN: No, I didn't see it. All I saw was people panicking and running.

INTERVIEWER: That must have been frightening for a six-year-old girl.

CARMEN: It was.

INTERVIEWER: A six-year-old person.

CARMEN: It was very scary and we went to [SOUNDS LIKE] Totem Guam. That's the thing, our family property. Totem Guam is in the back area of Dededo. It's condemned by the military. It's called NCS for awhile and now it's called Niktam [PH].

INTERVIEWER: Now that's north of Aganya, right?

CARMEN: Right, it's up north.

INTERVIEWER: Right, it's up there in Batay [PH].

CARMEN: Past Tamuning, Tumon, and Dededo.

INTERVIEWER: There is so much to talk about so we're just going to take little segments. That certainly covers the December 7th attack. I'd like to jump ahead and I'm sure there are many more stories, but obviously your family had a strong connection to George Tweed. What were your recollections about this business? Can you kind of fill us in a little?

CARMEN: Well, Mr. Juan Panalina [PH] was the adjacent farm to our farm in Tograt [PH], and my dad was out mending fence and ... I think Mr. Panalina came to our ranch house and told my dad that the fence is broken and he wanted to show him where it was because it's eating his corn and other crop. And my dad said, "If they're eating well just take and butcher the cow that ate ... that steer." But he said, "No, no come, please. I want to show you." And he was very persistent so my dad went with him, and he said when they got there the fence was not broken at all. And then that's when he told him that Tweed was at his place, and the Japanese had been

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searching for Tweed from the beginning of the war when they found out that he went into hiding other Navy men.

INTERVIEWER: Basically, the Japanese landed and there was some opposition to the landing but they were overwhelmed by the numbers and those that surrendered, but several of them, George Tweed being one of them, went to the hills to hide, right?

CARMEN: From what I understood, Tweed was the only radio man left behind and his task was to destroy all vital communication, and he didn't complete that because he was in the process of doing it when the Japanese invaded the Island. So the Japanese came upon the Navy radio, and called them but they didn't know how to work on it. So they went to the prisoner of war list and found out that he was not there. And so they did a roll call and found out that some others were not there, and that was the beginning of the search party for them.

Anyway, going back to that day, Mr. Panalina wanted my dad to take Tweed to his brother's place up in Upi, which I understand because Upi is larger. With very, very large land, he felt that Tweed can be hidden there better, and my dad ...

INTERVIEWER: Big underbrush, too, right?

CARMEN: Yes, well if you can imagine right now we're under some Air Force bases that belonged to my family and it was very, very huge, and so Panalina thought that my Uncle Jesus can find a better place for Tweed there and not be detected because the place is so difficult to get at in some areas. But my dad refused to do that because my uncle is a very well known person and very personable and very well liked, and he was a leader in the community in Yigo. And he felt that the Japanese will eventually learn right away about Mr. Tweed, and my dad didn't want his brother and family be killed.

And so my dad kept refusing and then my dad started to turn to leave and Mr. Panalina took out his machete and started chopping away, and my dad got scared

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and said, "Don, what are you doing?" Because he thought that Mr. Panalina was going to kill him because his secret is out. And Mr. Panalina said, "Oh, I'm just going cut some sacotti [PH], sword grass, I guess, for his cattle. So my dad went on the path and then I see he was walking on the path when these men jump up in front of them. And the way my dad said is when this man jumped up in front of him, he didn't see Tweed.

I even get emotional because I never saw my dad cry. He was shaking because he's a very good Catholic and said, "I didn't see Tweed. My vision was that of Jesus Christ in front of Pontius Pilate. I saw long straggly matted hair, and very skinny and hollow eyes and looking at me pleadingly, you know, like "Please help me." And then he said, "I just feel like God says I'm my brother's keeper. So I just know that I'll do what I can to help him." So he went home and told mom and then he went and told his dad and asked permission to hide him. So my grandfather gave my dad permission and also his brother, Joe, Uncle Joe was called to help out. So my dad and Uncle Joe helped find the place, and ...

INTERVIEWER: Which would later be called Tweed's Cave, right?

CARMEN: It's not really a cave. It's a narrow slip between two cliffs and it is very, very jagged and it's almost impossible to get to it.

INTERVIEWER: But they knew of it because it was on their property?

CARMEN: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Didn't your family or your dad realize the risk he was taking?

CARMEN: Yes, but ...

INTERVIEWER: With all of those children. He had 12 children. The Japanese, if they would have found out, would have ...

CARMEN: Well, at that time, there were only eight of us.

INTERVIEWER: Right. But still, that's a large family.

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CARMEN: Yes, but the people ... Many, many Chamorros hid Tweed before he came to my father's and my mother's hand.

INTERVIEWER: How long had he been in hiding would you say? Was it two or three months?

CARMEN: Well, he'd been in hiding from the beginning of the war and this was October of 1942.

INTERVIEWER: When your father ...

CARMEN: Yeah, when came to our farm.

INTERVIEWER: So almost a year?

CARMEN: Yeah, 21 months.

INTERVIEWER: There had been incidences, of course, in which ... Did any of that take place in which the Japanese began executing people that they thought were hiding Tweed?

CARMEN: Well, they were ...

INTERVIEWER: Or they were aiding themselves up until this point?

CARMEN: They were promising people I think shortly after they start searching for Tweed and, in fact, when them see any Chamorro that is very fair complected and kind of light brown hair or just a family that have kind of reddish hair, they think that they are the family. Of course, they mixed stateside and they were taken and accosted by the Japanese and also punished because they were suspected to be Americans. And other Chamorros had to come out and say that they are not Americans that they are Chamorros. But many Chamorros went and hid Tweed even from the beginning because the people love America and they love Americans and because they did they did believe in the principle of American democracy. Even though they were not in uniform and recruited, drafted to fight the war, I felt that all of the grown ups at that time were soldiers of America fighting this war.

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INTERVIEWER: Now do you remember meeting George Tweed at all? Do you remember meeting him when you were a young girl or seeing him?

CARMEN: No. The only time that I ever came close to was the night that he came toThe first night that he came to our place, because there was a lot of activity, and my mom was heating up water. My dad was helping her heat water for him to take a bath outside, I guess, and my mom was preparing food and it was late at night already. I kept asking what's going on and they told me to go in the bedroom and they sent all of the children in the bedroom.

INTERVIEWER: So they didn't want you children to know what was going on for fear you might say something right. Did you ever accompany your father partially down the trail to the cave at all? I remember reading something about that and they left you behind.

CARMEN: First, you know, also that night my mom was doing laundry that I thought was unusual.

INTERVIEWER: How did they do the laundry in those days by the way?

CARMEN: They had what we called batia [PH], and it's a big piece of wood with four sides and a little hole in the end and they used a corn cob to scrub, and they keep pouring water and scrubbing.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, that's hard work, isn't it?

CARMEN: Yes. So the next morning I woke up and I saw these khaki pants on the line. So I went and I asked my mom whose pants was that and she said that it was her brother, Uncle Pete. But they're up in Barrigada so I couldn't figure out why did she have to wash Uncle Pete's brown pants because my dad was not wearing that kind of blue pants. My dad was wearing brown pants all the time.

INTERVIEWER: Now Carmen, it strikes me that you were always and have been an inquisitive person. Is that true?

CARMEN: Yes.

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INTERVIEWER: And rather independent.

CARMEN: I guess so.

INTERVIEWER: And that's part of your personality? Would that be fair to say?

CARMEN: I guess so. Always wanting to know and find out what's going on. So anyway, when she said it was Uncle Pete's pants but I refused to believe it. But after that, then my dad was always going every so often with some things in a gunny sack. Later on, when the Japanese were trying to build a light house near our area, they used our path to go there. So my dad used to take me with him and he would give me an empty gunny sack and when we would get to the bottom of the cliff, he'll give me the empty gunny sack to pick Federico nuts while he would go up to Tweed and give him his provisions.

INTERVIEWER: So if they got stopped by the Japanese, he could explain why he was there. He would have this. It's very interesting. Your father is a very clever man himself.

CARMEN: Yes, and I guess when especially we were carrying food, and I keep saying why are we taking food. We're always hungry. We never had enough because the Japanese were always taking it away.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, they would come to your house and take food away?

CARMEN: Oh, all the time especially they liked to come during meal time and then just push all of us away from the table and they'll sit and eat and then take whatever else they could find. So sometimes we'll go without a meal. You know, just give it all ...

INTERVIEWER: Did they ever hit your children or they would just barge in and sit and eat?

CARMEN: Or try very hard.

INTERVIEWER: Sort of like a bad fairy tale like the bad bears coming to your house, right?

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CARMEN: Yes. So anyway, that was how they get my mom to eat.

INTERVIEWER: Well, you have some pictures here. Can you share these pictures with us? You can just stick them right in front of you and then the camera will pick them up, and just kind of briefly describe them to us.

CARMEN: This is the look out or rather right on this cliff is where Tweed's cave is hidden, and from this vantage point you can see all the way into Asan.

INTERVIEWER: I see. So he could even see when the Japanese were coming?

CARMEN: Right. And from here you could see all the way down to Asan Point. In fact, that's what I used also to look to the invasion.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, you watched the invasion from there, too?

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, let's look at another one. You can just bring it right up. And the cameraman will tell you. This is informal so he can tell you if he wants you to keep it straight because there's some glare. That's good right there.

CARMEN: And this is inside the cave.

INTERVIEWER: This was taken inside the cave?

CARMEN: Yeah, but this picture was taken right after the war maybe in 19 ...

INTERVIEWER: Can you point out who those people are?

CARMEN: I don't recall who the other two fellows but this is my father.

INTERVIEWER: That's your father. Okay. And the local man you don't know who that is?

CARMEN: No.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, how about the other picture? That's taken inside the cave, huh?

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

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CARMEN: And the reason I want to show you is because, you know, it's very narrow between that cliff and this here, and we have all these roots of this ... I don't know, palm tree and the jagged coral rock on the bottom, and that's where we have to lie down and sleep or, you know, just cower in the corner. Of course, this is my picture of my father and my grandfather.

INTERVIEWER: Your father and your grandfather. Now you said your father went to get permission from your grandfather, correct?

CARMEN: Yes, because even though the land is put under his children's name, it's still his property, you know.

INTERVIEWER: And then, of course, that's a Hispanic tradition. You don't do things without permission of your father.

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Something that's lost these days.

CARMEN: Even running for political office is right now nobody can run without calling the family for a meeting to ask the family's permission.

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting. Who are these people?

CARMEN: Now this is a recent picture of my mother and father with Tweed. This was taken in 1981.

INTERVIEWER: Are your mother and father still with us or have they passed on?

CARMEN: No, my father died in 1984 and Mr. Tweed died January of 1989 and my mom died in February.

INTERVIEWER: I think what they'll want you to do with the next picture is kind of hold it closer to your chest because the focus is such that you need them closer. Okay.

CARMEN: This was taken again after the war.

INTERVIEWER: About 1946-47? Tweed returned?

CARMEN: I have to look through my papers there for that.

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INTERVIEWER: Oh, that's okay you can look afterwards.

CARMEN: But I don't know whether it's '47 when he presented the car to my dad.

INTERVIEWER: He presented a car to your father?

CARMEN: Yes, but it was a token of appreciation by the Chevrolet Company.

INTERVIEWER: How nice, though, to think of your dad. Now, your dad is right in the center.

CARMEN: So this is my dad.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

CARMEN: That's Tweed.

INTERVIEWER: Tweed with the hat on.

CARMEN: And this is my mom's sister and this is my uncle and I don't know who the others ...

INTERVIEWER: You're not in that picture?

CARMEN: No.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Here's another one. Is this the car?

CARMEN: These are my three brothers with the Chevrolet in front of our store.

INTERVIEWER: What happened to that car?

CARMEN: It rusted out and you know how Guam is, everything just ...

INTERVIEWER: That's too bad. That would be a wonderful artifact. Be worth a lot of money.

CARMEN: I don't know. This is a picture of ...

INTERVIEWER: Your dad.

CARMEN: ... my dad and mom and Tweed with all of us kids.

INTERVIEWER: Now where are you in that picture?

CARMEN: Right there.

INTERVIEWER: There you are right there.

CARMEN: With my oldest sister Maria.

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INTERVIEWER: That's a wonderful picture. That's the whole family?

CARMEN: Yes, one is missing, I think.

INTERVIEWER: Where is this picture taken at? Do you remember?

CARMEN: After the war, we had to move up to Aganya Heights where my father's mother's brother's property.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know where? It was at Aganya Heights, I understand?

CARMEN: Aganya Heights.

INTERVIEWER: Great. And you have this letter by George Tweed. This is his letter that he left. Can you talk a little bit about that?

CARMEN: In July 10 of 1944 during the heavy bombardment, George decided to try signaling the American battle ships that were out ...

INTERVIEWER: Right off shore, right?

CARMEN: Right off shore of Guam. So he devised a signal. I don't know about signaling but he used this paper to work his math just to keep himself busy so he won't go crazy and I think this is his signal. I don't know whether it's held this way or this way. I have no idea how signals are done.

INTERVIEWER: But he made those notes.

CARMEN: But this is the ... They say the signal that he used to give the destroyer.

INTERVIEWER: Let's turn this around so they get a really good picture of this without the glare on it. There we go. And he left this note where? By the cave?

CARMEN: Yeah, he left it on the cave and ...

INTERVIEWER: For your father?

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, and he left. It doesn't say good-bye, though.

CARMEN: No. He didn't think it was going to be good-bye, I guess. He just said ...

INTERVIEWER: Can you read that?

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CARMEN: He said, "My dearest friend. A destroyer is sending in a boat to take me aboard. God bless you, my friend and we both shall ... No. If we both live until the war is over, you will surely hear from me. Your true life long friend. Monday evening, July 10, 7:00 p.m. Please keep the things for me that I may want.

INTERVIEWER: And that was probably one of them, huh?

CARMEN: No, he had some of his, you know, personal belongings that he may have wanted to keep.

INTERVIEWER: That's wonderful. You know what, I was ... We want to talk about so there's notes in all of that.

[TECHNICAL]

CARMEN: Not necessarily Commonwealth just morally I feel that both nations have an obligation to ...

[TECHNICAL]

INTERVIEWER: Carmen, you have a picture here. Can you describe who the woman is and what the picture is of?

CARMEN: Somebody took a picture of my mom holding the letter that Tweed left in the cave before he was picked up by the boat from the destroyer that came in on that July 10.

INTERVIEWER: That was a treasured document of your family, right?

CARMEN: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And you have not decided where to have this preserved yet, have you?

CARMEN: No. Well, what I would like very much to see happen is that I feel like the two nations, America and Japan war between each other and they use our land and us people as their battlefield. And that war destroyed our culture, never again to be the same, and I feel that neither has made retribution and reconciliation of the war. And I feel that maybe some wars are fought because of their belief and love and trust

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in America, and they have not been recognized. And I feel that America had no right to negotiate with Japan on war settlement without a thought of us people in Guam.

INTERVIEWER: Isn't that true, though, that all Pacific Islanders were not consulted on these things?

CARMEN: Well, not necessarily because Japan made retribution to Saipan and the Northern Marianas and other islands.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that would be fair of the people of Hawaii to expect that in light of what happened in Pearl Harbor?

CARMEN: I think so and I feel that, you know, the kind of retribution that I'd like to see happen is for formal apology by Japan to the people of Guam for their atrocities. To me, they committed a horrendous war crime on the people, and up to now, it has not been ...

INTERVIEWER: Were any Japanese tried for these war crimes?

CARMEN: Whatever war crime that was tried maybe it's a war crime between ... The crime that was done to Americans, but not to our knowledge not to ...

INTERVIEWER: So now Chamorros were called to testify as to what happened?

CARMEN: No, we have no idea even a war crime ...

INTERVIEWER: Tribunal?

CARMEN: ... tribunal was conducted and, therefore, I feel that Japan should make this retribution because of the war crimes that they committed.

INTERVIEWER: So these wrongs that you feel very strongly about have not been addressed?

CARMEN: Right, all of us even the older ones, especially the older ones, but I'm not asking for ... You know, the people of Guam are not asking for a lot. All we're asking is that if they can please build us a huge museum so we can house a lot of our artifacts and also I feel that in order for our children to understand where they are at now, they have to know their history, their past and what happened so that they can

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be able to understand why we are what we are right now. So that we can make a decision of what to decide to do for the future.

INTERVIEWER: Is that why you've held back donating the Tweed letter to the National Park Service because you think that in the future there could be a home for it and it would be very important for the Chamorro people for it to be there?

CARMEN: Yes, and we feel that, you know, we don't have the money to build this museum and I feel that America and Japan should at least do that. And to build a performing arts center because a lot of our young people do like to dance, and we have a lot of artistic talent that needs to be used and ...

INTERVIEWER: And developed, right?

CARMEN: Yes, and also it would be in the way of economic development for the island by all the visiting tourists can come to see.

INTERVIEWER: Who have you approached with this idea, Underwood or ... ?

CARMEN: When I was a Senator, I introduced a resolution to that effect and the late Senator Bombad [INDISCERNIBLE] and I both were trying to come up with a war reparation bills and resolution and the Japanese Consulate here in Guam came and approached us and said it was best not to do anything because the war between the Americans and Japan has already been settled, and this is making his country a shame for it to come out. And that even angered me a little bit, you know, because I feel like if you are ashamed then be strong and say you are sorry and do something about it, not just to hide it.

INTERVIEWER: In light of as much Japanese business that is here, what effect does that have?

CARMEN: Well, those of us who are older are still feeling the pain that they have not really made retribution, and then the other pain we have is that a lot of our private land has been taken away and forced taking. And they started doing the forced taking ... The Americans did this in 1946, but then when they realized that

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we're not U.S. citizens, they took upon the idea that they wanted to be Americans. So let's have Congress make them U.S. citizens. So we became U.S. citizens through an Act of Congress. That way it legitimized the land taking but they didn't take it justly. Now there's a lot of unused military land because they told us at first it's going to be for national defense, but now they are downsizing and they don't know what to do with the surplus land so instead of giving it back to the people who owned it, they wanted to give it different non-profit organizations in the States. And one group wanted to use the land for the homeless. One other group for HIV victims and another group for the Audubon Society and we don't have land for our children. Look at all our young children who landless and I feel that ... I mean, if we want peace and we want forgiveness, then let's right the wrong now.

INTERVIEWER: So you have two issues you're dealing with here that are very important to you. First of all, have you given up on the Japanese for them to help build these ...

CARMEN: No, I have not given up.

INTERVIEWER: What happened to your bill?

CARMEN: Well, it was a resolution requesting the federal government to ...

INTERVIEWER: Was that passed by the Guam government?

CARMEN: Although it was passed, the resolution really has no effect of law, and Congress don't have to think or even act on it so nothing ever came about.

INTERVIEWER: Did you produce this again as a resolution? I know you're not active but someone does that. Did it have more support than it had before? Because to me it appears that the political climate in Guam is changing.

CARMEN: I would feel that instead of Congressman Underwood asking for so many millions of dollars to give to the people who were killed and forced labor, the money is going to just disappear right away. You can never put a price on death and crime and atrocities committed. So I thought building the museum and a performing arts

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center and an art gallery and set aside scholarship money. Both countries set aside scholarship money for the descendants of the Chamorro people who went through this horrifying episode, or rather event, in the war that that will be a more lasting retribution and it will help our people to grow up more maturely in peace and harmony and create a better world.

INTERVIEWER: What kind of support do you have without the governor, lieutenant governor, people in politics here? Do you have that support for this or what are their feelings about this movement?

CARMEN: I don't think that right now they have a mind about it other than appropriate so much money. I hope that I can convince our leaders to think this way because to me ...

INTERVIEWER: What about Delegate Underwood? Have you talked to him a little bit about this?

CARMEN: No, not my idea. I have not yet approached him about it.

INTERVIEWER: Now, since the last time I saw you, you were kind of developing this. It looks like it's been something you've been thinking a lot about, and you're a pretty strong woman and person and I suspect you're going to carry this forward. Is that the plan?

CARMEN: Yes. I don't think I can rest until I see that it be done. Because as I talk to more and more people especially the young ones they are really enthused about it. They like the idea very, very much.

INTERVIEWER: What is your feeling about the Chamorro nation. This seems to be a fairly strong, not strong in a sense, but they're very confrontational in their movement. How do you feel about them?

CARMEN: The reason why I feel that they are going the way they are going is because of the same feeling that I've expressed to you that their parents and grandparents have not been dealt with properly, and that there has been a lot of

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abuse happen to them. And they have not been recognized or given the right financial means or way of life. So feel that there probably will be an agreement with or in consort with [INDISCERNIBLE].

INTERVIEWER: Do you sympathize with them at all?

CARMEN: Oh, very, very much.

INTERVIEWER: Asan Overlook, I was there the other day and it's a beautiful park in my view, and I was struck by the portion of it that deals with the occupation, the attack of the liberation specifically towards your people. How do you feel about the Asan Overlook, and when the names were finally put up there of the Chamorro people? Do you feel positive about that or do you ... I want to know exactly how you feel about that?

CARMEN: Well, I feel very good about it. However, I feel like it's just the beginning.

INTERVIEWER: It's the beginning?

CARMEN: It's the beginning. And I want our young people on the island to not carry the pain and the burden of hate because of what has happened.

INTERVIEWER: Were there young people up the mass you were talking about, I believe it was Metagam.

CARMEN: Meningan [PH].

INTERVIEWER: Meningan. Were there young people there?

CARMEN: There were a lot of young people there and a lot of them heard the story from their parents and grandparents, and the mass was really beautiful and everybody was calling in the spirit of sharing the anguish and pain and then later the [INDISCERNIBLE] that was there and the names of the loved ones were there. Even though it's not a complete listing of those that died, at least it's a beginning. It's a start and at the end of the mass, we had a big fiesta like usual. We always try to make ourselves feel good by socializing happily and then we have entertainment and

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it's very, very local entertainment. A lot of the little children are entertainers dancing and singing and it was a wonderful spirit of unity.

And the greatest thing that happened I thought that last night was Father Viza [PH] Gomez who was from Saipan he stood in front of all of us and he asked us for forgiveness for what his uncles did to those ... His uncles abused during the war because Saipan is owned by Japan and a lot of the Saipanese were taught to be loyal to Japan, and some of them were brought to Guam to be used as interpreters but they were also used to punish the people.

INTERVIEWER: In what manner did they punish the people?

CARMEN: By beating the people or whatever means of punishment that they had to inflict on those that were punished, and I thought that was so big of him to ask forgiveness. Because the people of Guam and the Northern Marianas are all one people, and we're all related. And that war has caused a lot of pain and division in our people, and that's to where it's another beginning.

INTERVIEWER: I always have a problem with the word "celebration," and how that word is used. They used it a Pearl Harbor and it bothered me. We weren't celebrating anything. We were observing and when I see this 50th Anniversary Celebration, the Liberation was the reality of the war finally coming to an end but it certainly didn't settle anything.

CARMEN: Right. It's not really. To me, the only thing that we can consider celebration is that the end of the suffering and death, and the people were being forced to leave their homes and hide in the jungle and be beaten or massacred. The celebration is the end of that, but as far as the people of Guam being given their rights for liberty and pursuit of their lives, that has not been actualized yet.

INTERVIEWER: What does this all mean, this 50th Anniversary to you.

CARMEN: Well, to me it's really just a mark of time that it happened and for us, the victims that came now and see what they did was [SOUNDS LIKE] ward it out. We

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want to show them that we appreciated them very much, and it was worth that they came to sacrifice themselves to end the war. I know they were doing it to recapture the island for America as a strategic area in the Pacific but as a consequence of that, I guess the ripple effect is that the Chamorros were free from that oppression and hostility of war.

So in that respect, yes we were celebrating the end of that terrible war, and celebrating the sacrifice. You know, we're all deeply honored and appreciative of all the work that they did. And we're not against the veterans because we feel that once they realized what was going on, they made their plans on how to attack the island to care for the natives. In the beginning, the natives were not part of their talks and their plans from what I understood. But as some natives swam out to the ship to tell them where the natives are, and when Tweed got on board ...

INTERVIEWER: He told them things?

CARMEN: He told them and so that made a lot of difference in their decision making from then on. So we really appreciate them for doing that. We realize that after all they are human and they're Christian also.

INTERVIEWER: Let me tell you a story and you can react to this. I was interviewing a Marine in the day, and he was over by marshlands area and in the distance he could see what he thought were civilians, and then he saw soldier uniforms, Japanese soldier uniforms. He didn't know what was going on but he suddenly saw that the civilians were all being lined up. They were all in a straight line and the Japanese then shot them down. He said it was too far from a rifle shot but he knew that the Japanese had done that to show them. He said that then he was aware of the stories that they were told on the ship that there were civilians here, and he was angry and filled with hate.

And so, after that he didn't take prisoners and then he finally saw some Japanese women that they literally been thrown out to draw fire. And they helped carry the

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women away and he was on the patrol that came across some Chamorro people and helped carry a baby. And it just struck him, you know, that he was so far away from home and here he was with these people, and he was all of 19 or 20. So that's his remembrance of this war.

CARMEN: I can feel for him and empathize with him because my son is a Marine pilot right now, and he was sent to the Gulf War during the Iraq-Kuwait War, and then was one of the planes in the very first wave to initiate the war. And the way I feel to that, I raised my son to be a good Christian and to be an upright citizen, and I think every country does that. You want to have your best to be the soldiers. But then you have the best one nation and the best of another nation and then for them to destroy each other, it's inhuman that nations will do that. I feel like it's not even human intelligence is working there any more. It's some evil brutality.

INTERVIEWER: Which seems to exist in the world through history.

CARMEN: I know but I think that as the world of mankind grows, we have to find a way to restrain our brutal nature and suppress it so that we can create a more loving world. And with the Japanese, I know that there are good Japanese and there are bad Japanese. One Japanese officer who was here in Guam right in the beginning of the war befriended my mom when my mom and us kids were in line to get rice. And after that, he used to come to our house. That was before we had to stay in hiding, up in [SOUNDS LIKE] Tolgrad. Because after we went out in hiding, we came back again and stayed there for a few months. So he used to come to our house, and I learned to sing, "Row, Row Your Boat" from his lap. I was 6-1/2 years old, remember.

INTERVIEWER: So he was not brutal?

CARMEN: No, he taught all of us kids to sing an American song, Row, Row Your Boat, and became very close friends with my mom and dad. And before he left, he gave my mom and dad a picture of himself and his wife and his little boy who was

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maybe like four years old and a little baby girl that the wife was holding. My mom had that picture for even after the war. I don't know what happened to it.

INTERVIEWER: To him?

CARMEN: He said that he hated his country going into war with America, and he cried and he and my mom and dad cried. This was before, too, he came to our place, you know. And he said he didn't want to go to war, and he didn't want his country to go to war against America because he loved America and he was a graduate of Harvard University and he had lots of good friends in America. He gave the picture to my mom and dad. It was his only picture, I think, and he said, "I have a feeling I'm not going to make this war. I'll never see my family again." And I guess his ship was destroyed during ...

INTERVIEWER: So he didn't make it?

CARMEN: Right. So you see what I mean? There are terrible Japanese who brutalized our people here in Guam, raped them, terrorized them, and persecuted them, but then there are Japanese who are good, too. I mean, there were Americans that were not very good, and then there were Americans that were very good.

INTERVIEWER: Before we close this interview, is there any story that you feel is important that you would like to tell that we may have overlooked or something that you have never told anybody before, you know, that's appropriate on this 50th Anniversary?

CARMEN: Well, I can tell the time that we were hiding in Tweed's cave. Before we got there, we were getting ready to go to Maningum because we were ordered to go, but when the Americans were bombing it we had to go into hiding. We ended hiding with the Panalina family and my grandfather's family and then two Chamorros came and took Mr. Panalina away and everybody was crying because they didn't want him to go. And they said that the Japanese officers wanted to pay him for all the farm

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produce that he has been providing the Japanese because that was their promise that they were going to pay, but they never paid.

And then my dad said, "Don't go, John, because I don't believe during this time with all this war going on that they have any money to even pay." He said, "I've got to go," because he wanted to protect his wife and children and then Maria started crying in such a way that it was such a sorrowful, painful cry that before we knew it, all of us kids were crying. And everybody was begging him not to go, but he left anyway. And so, he left with them. Then after that, we all went back to our ways and then my dad went to see Tweed and that's when he found the note.

So he came back and he told my mom, "I guess now that Tweed is gone, we are free to go to Maningun because the Japanese cannot suspect us of hiding Tweed because he's already gone. But as we were getting ready to go, the same two men came back and they said the same thing to my dad that they want to take him for payment. And my dad didn't want to believe him and I was hiding behind the post of the house listening to what was going on. I got scared and I wanted to yell at my dad.

So I remembered, because I'm always a snoopy person, I knew that my dad was hiding a gun because he didn't want to turn his gun into the Japanese. So I ran into the jungle and he was hiding his gun in the hollow of a tree, and I took his gun out and I started running real hard to him and I said, "Papa, Papa, look, I found a gun." And my dad grabbed the gun from me and he pointed it at the two men and he said, "Tell me the truth or I'll shoot you and kill you right now." And so that man said, "Carmen, call the dogs."

So I started calling all our hunting dogs, and then they finally told my dad that Father Dreynas [PH] and his nephew and Mr. Pinalina were killed and that they were ordered to come and take my dad, and that if they didn't do it, they'll kill them, too. And so,

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my dad said, "I don't care what you say, I'm not going to go with you. You get out of here and don't look back because the dogs are going to be right at your heel."

INTERVIEWER: And who were these men? They were Japanese soldiers or what?

CARMEN: No, one of them was Mr. Akimyan Jako [PH] and the other one a Saipanese. So they left and then that's when my dad decided we have to go hide in Tweed's cave. So we went and hid in Tweed's cave and then the shelling was getting worse and worse and it was toward our area, and when we climbed up it was so bad and my dad made me in charge of the end of the trail, that I'm supposed to make sure that all the path is covered up so nobody will know that we came through. Because, you know, I've been my dad's helper from the beginning of the war going in the jungle because I didn't like housework.

I was so scared, I didn't feel that I was even walking on the grass or on the ... I feel like I was floating on air and I kept hearing noise, you know, and I already knew jungle noise because I'd been there since 1941 in December. So I knew even deer noise, a wild pig's noise and bird's noise and other noise, and I could hear people, but I'm trying to make sure that, you know, no one would see our tracks. And I had my pet deer because my Uncle Joe caught the doe and he didn't realize that she just gave birth to a fawn, and so he took his shirt off—this was earlier in the war—took his shirt off and wrapped the fawn and brought it home and gave it to me.

Joe was even shaking he just felt so bad that I didn't want to kill the mom, and I didn't know that she just gave birth so can you take care of the baby? So I raised that deer and I called her Linda. So Linda was following us, and my dad said, "You've got to get rid of the deer." And I didn't want to get rid of the deer because it's the only thing that I felt close to and I can relay my fear to. And my dad looked at me and said, "Would you rather that deer than your baby brother?" My baby brother was only eight months. "The Japanese are going to catch us and going to kill all of us?" And so I had to decide between my family and my pet deer.

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INTERVIEWER: I'll pick it up for you okay? Your father then told you that you had to choose between the deer and your family. So what did you do?

CARMEN: So I had to break a branch in a way that no one is going to find the broken branch in the jungle and I started whipping her and whipping her and she looked at me and she just pleaded, you know. And with her pleading eyes she couldn't understand why I was beating her up and I keep telling her, "Go away. Go away." And I had to kick her because she refused to go away, and I really had to hit her with all my might so many, many times until finally she ran away. But it was very painful to do that and then I had to take care of my younger brothers and sisters that are right in front of me, too. And my dad was helping my mom climb up the cliff. After we got it. To get into Tweed's cave is very, very steep up the incline and up the cliff, and it's very narrow.

So my dad had to help my mom and then after we got to a certain point, I had to lead the back of the trail, and my dad will go above my mom to pull her up and I have to push my mom. First my dad had to take my little brother from my mom and put him some place and then my dad had to grab my mom's arm, and I had to help push her so that she can take care of the baby. Then after we got in the cave, my mom ... We didn't realize but my mom was also pregnant maybe about three months pregnant and so lost that pregnancy there. We didn't have any water and my dad had to go down to catch water in the fresh water pool and that went on for days.

Then when my mom was able to get some strength ... First of all that's why we were kneeling and praying and we were doing that a lot whenever we can, when my mother can kneel down. But then my uncle, I guess, was unnerved by all the shelling and the kids' noise and was afraid that the Japanese were going to find us or getting mad at my mom that she was not taking care of her seven kids making all the noise. So they got into an argument and then he hit my mom and then my sister Maria the oldest came to protect my mom from the blow, and she ended up getting hit and was

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throw all the way to the back of the cliff. Then my dad came running up from fetching water, and he and his brother got into a fist fight and that really scared us half to death.

And then finally my grandfather took his family and my uncle's family and they went down below, and they hid in the cave down below. My grandmother, Nansaza [PH], it was already getting dark. They went into the cave and she fell because it was dark and she felt something warm and furry so she got scared, but she started to scream and she was warned not to scream because we might be found by Japanese. But the person or the thing was not moving so she just I guess laid on top or near it and everyone was just crowded in the small cave. It wasn't until morning when they realized that it was a Japanese who shot himself or killed himself and stayed there. When they went down and we were kneeling and praying,

I got mad because I said, "You said that God can hear us and we keep praying and he's not listening so I threw my rosary on the cliff wall, and I said, "I'm not going to pray any more because he just doesn't want to help us." And so I went to the front of the cliff, the cave, and I was watching the invasion. Then my cousin came up calling, "The Americans are here." And my father took his gun and he said, Suze, if you're lying to me, I'll kill you. How would I know that you didn't meet up with the Japanese and now you're going to give up and turn us over to the Japanese to save your life?" And he said, "No, I'm not lying to you." And he made the sign of the cross and said, "In front of God I'm not lying to you. There are two right behind me." So my dad said, "Send in front and let him take his hat off so I can see his head on his face."

INTERVIEWER: And your dad had his gun with him, right?

CARMEN: Yes, but incidentally, that gun is all rusty and it didn't have any ... So anyway, he pushed one guy out front and then the other guy wanted ... Because he didn't know how to speak English. So the other guy wanted to come on, too. I was just watching from my perch and then they understood what was going on so they

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stopped, and then would start reaching up for the guy's helmet and then they struggled again. Finally, he said, "Pula, pula [PH]." It means take off, take off. And so he took off with his own men and my dad saw that there were Americans. So he had logged them in. I went from the back side of the cave and went in and I saw them hugging and kissing and I got really upset so I had to go ...

INTERVIEWER: Why were you upset?

CARMEN: Because I didn't understand. I thought my mother and father went crazy because it's somebody in uniform and they had branches and leaves on their hat, and they were carrying grenades and ...

INTERVIEWER: You didn't understand that they were Americans?

CARMEN: I was a small girl. I didn't understand. All I knew was that people in uniform are bad people. They are going to hurt you because that's what the Japanese were, and I didn't understand why my parents were hugging and kissing. Maybe because that's their pleading for us not to be killed. So I took all my brothers and sisters to the back of the cave and I refused for anyone to touch us because I felt like I'm not going to trust any more grown ups, and I'm now in charge of all of my brothers and sisters and we're going to run away and I'm going to take them away. And my mom and my dad kept saying, "Come. Let's go."

And they smell so bad, you know, the soldiers and their odor is different from the Japanese of sweaty odor and I didn't want to go. Finally, one of them opened their ration and took out candy and gave it to me and I then I realized I was very thirsty. So I took it and broke it and gave it to my brothers and sisters. Then they gave me gum and I tasted it again and then I gave some to my brothers and sisters, and then after that I reluctantly let them take us. And we came down the cliff and then after we got to the clearing, my mom asked one of the men what day is it? They told her and then she came back running to me and laughing and crying. Mama, mama, it's

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your birthday. Today is August 8 and you're nine years old. But I didn't feel happy about it.

When we were growing up there were dead Japanese piled on the side of the path. Dead Japanese all up in all the different trees. Dead Americans were on the side of the path and they put us in one of those wooden carriers and took us to [INDISCERNIBLE] Cemetery. Then the next day I was still running a fever, and the doctor said I had pneumonia. So they put me in the infirmary then and the man to one side was coughing and vomiting up blood. The woman to my other side was screaming because she was having so much pain, and I didn't realize she was giving birth. So that night I ran away to find my family. I finally found my mom and dad.

INTERVIEWER: And that was on your birthday?

CARMEN: Yes, so that's how I remember the end of the war.

INTERVIEWER: And what ever happened? Did you ever find your deer?

CARMEN: No. It's no way to grow up and that's why I want very much for other people to understand and for our children on this island to know and understand, and that we must try to forgive. We must try also to make it better for our children and we must recognition and tribute to those who were killed because of America and Americans. And America has an obligation to recognize that, and not only recognize but give tribute and quit making us feel like we're not worth anything. Our children need to be made feel good and proud of themselves for what they are, for being Chamorro and America does not realize what a wealth they have in this indigenous culture that are all over, and we should capitalize on the richness of our diversity, that through our diversity we can unite and make America a great country. And if there is so shallow for us to show boastfulness and material wealth, and not in our spiritual wealth. We must quit rushing to make something materialistic to show other nations how great we are materialistically.

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INTERVIEWER: Well, Carmen, I know this has been very difficult for you to talk about and I want to thank you for this interview and these words that you've talked about today will be part of a permanent record at the National Park, and they will be able to be reviewed by Chamorro people and other people that will use this. Because this will be on file there. So thank you very much.

CARMEN: Thank you, too. I appreciate it. God bless you for all your good work and God bless all Americans who have the right spirit and want to strive to bring justice to every one of us. And I hope that this will be known by others instead of bad leaders who are making bad decisions. Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you.

[END AUDIO]